

Sponsor: Matt Furmanski & Christophe Bourely

Department: Art

Activity Title: The human impact on Santa Rosa Island: an artistic approach 2

Date (s) of activity: May 6-8, 2016

(1) Provide a description of the activity:

The topic of the activity was “the human impact on Santa Rosa Island: an artistic approach.”

Students started their research by attending an on-campus presentation by Dr. Cause Hanna on the history of Santa Rosa Island. The presentation instigated students to think about the different types of impact human beings have had and continue to have on the island of Santa Rosa.

While on the island, students observed the landscape in light of their understanding of the human impact and its effect. Both painting and sculpture students took photographs that will later assist them in the creation of art pieces that reflect their insight and understanding of the research at hand. Additionally, professor Furmanski’s students collected trash approved by the National Park Service to later use as the basis for future sculpture.

On their return, both painting and sculpture students will create artistic works that will reflect their understanding of the human impact on the island. An exhibit of their artistic research is scheduled for November 2016 at the CSUCI campus. Additionally, student artworks will later be presented as permanent displays at the Student Research Center of Santa Rosa Island.

(2) How did the activity relate to a course(s) and/or learning objectives?

The activity directly related to both sculpture and painting students in regards to their further understanding of art making as it relates to composition, form and content. The field trip also integrated aspects of social art making, that is art that carries a specific goal of communicating through visual means, issues that are of importance to us as a human community. The art work created will confront the viewer with questions about our environment, our place in that environment, and our responsibility as stewards of that environment, specific to the Nation Park and Santa Rosa Island, as well as our coastline.

(3) What do you see as the strengths of the activity?

The strengths of the activity were apparent in the focus, concentration and camaraderie that students displayed during the field trip. Their reaction to an unfamiliar and isolated environment was novel and thought provoking, which gave them a new and challenging subject to contemplate vis-à-vis their artwork. For many of the students, this was the first time out of the city, and for some, this was the first time they had ever been on a boat, not to mention an island. This shift in perspective and primary experience is essential in an education.

(4) What would you say are/were the activity’s weaknesses?

No activity weakness. The students wanted to spend more time on the island.

(5) How would you improve this activity for next time?

No need for improvement. Try and provide it earlier in the semester, and for more time on the island.

(6) What did you learn from the process?

We learned that students without access to internet were much better able to interact with each other, help each other and create stronger bonds overall. We also learned the inclusion of out of classroom experiences are essential in the learning process, and that a properly guided intense and immersive project/experience like this can access learning at a level well beyond traditional classroom lecturing.

(7) What are student responses to the activity? Attach student evaluations or assessments (in accordance with FERPA restrictions you must remove all personally identifiable student information)

8) Give a summary of expenses for the activity.

Island Packers Boat Trip: \$2,704.18

Food: \$831.73

Art Supplies, printing, paper, containers, gloves, canvas boards, etc: \$1964.

TOTAL \$5,500.00

B. On separate document, please attach attendee list

C. Please include up to 6 images as attachments to your email submission

SRIRS student feedback.

Student Testimonials Reflections Santa Rosa Island research trip, May 6, 7, and 8 with Professors Christophe Bourely and Matt Furmanski.

1. "My favorite part about the trip was the sense of community between all of us who went. I also enjoyed the wild life and really seeing the difference of island life and the mainland. It was an awesome opportunity and I'm thankful I got to have that experience."
2. This trip was a fantastic experience that brought me closer to my fellow classmates. I am so happy that I took the opportunity to go and grow with everyone as a group. Each day created memories with the island and the people surrounding me. I would highly recommend this trip to anyone who gets the chance! Santa Rosa island gave us all a place to unwind and relax for a few days. I am very thankful for it.
3. To condense such a life changing experience into a few sentences seems unjust, I would have to say this trip was so enlightening and it should be on everyone's bucket list. I feel every moment was so precious as it was away from the high demand of material living, each sound and sight gave you new insight into yourself, the island and your little tribe you started to form. The island taught me to feel small (especially encompassed in the night sky), appreciate the things I do have, and to take every moment with a present mind set. The island gave me such a profound healing and I am eternally grateful, I will definitely be returning sooner than later.
4. The Santa Rosa Island Research trip was a joyful and explorative adventure with CI students, staff and faculty. I truly feel like something special happened to all of us over the 3 days we were on the island. Removing myself from my busy life on the main land gave me time to reflect and also helped me slow down to enjoy my present. I was able to take in the natural beauty of my beloved university's name sake and explore the island with the people who now hold a tender place in my heart. CI has given me so much over the last two years. I will be forever grateful for this experience.

SRI Roster

Matt Furmanski

Ermelinda Bendy

Jade Baer

Pamela (Alyx) McCormic

Sean Doll

Austin Finley

Christian Morris

Gary Rodriguez

Sergio Soto

Sarah O'Connell

Jessica Sandrock

Paige Ellison

Brielle Walker

Spencer Pomeroy

Julianne Musard

Stephanie Lovos

Gabriella Lago

Julia Field

Riley Ruano

Julianna Lacoste

Christophe Bourély

Kenji Webb

Spencer Laby



